



TED STRICKLAND
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

June 22, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you and I discussed during your recent visit to Columbus, the last flights of NASA's space shuttle program are quickly approaching, and, soon after, we will be retiring our fleet of orbiters. I write to you today with a passion shared by many Ohioans: that one of the retiring space shuttles be displayed at the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio.

Ohio, the birthplace of flight, is the perfect location for one of the remaining orbiters—home of aerospace pioneers Wilber and Orville Wright; the first man to orbit the earth, astronaut John Glenn; the first man on the moon, Neil Armstrong, and many others. In fact, Ohioans continue to play a major role in the space program to this day; Michael Good became the most recent Ohioan to travel into space, embarking on a mission to the International Space Station on May 14th.

With annual attendance of more than 1.3 million, the National Museum of the United States Air Force is a tribute to our nation's military. It has the space, technical staff, and historical context to display the orbiter and tell the NASA story. The museum is the world's largest and oldest military aviation museum featuring more than 400 aerospace vehicles in 17 acres of indoor exhibit space. NASA's story of air and space travel cannot be told without the intimate involvement of the military services, particularly the military astronauts, and the innovative aerospace technologies developed and integrated for NASA's use by the Air Force in particular.

Many great Ohio companies, such as Goodrich, GE Aviation, and Parker Hannifin, have been major contributors to the success of the shuttle program and have helped to meet the challenging innovation needs of the aerospace industry.

This letter coincides with my announcement of an investment to bolster the Dayton Aerospace Hub of Innovation and Opportunity. Ohio's Hub strategy is an important part of our

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long term economic development plan for Ohio's regions, and Dayton has been designated as the Aerospace Hub due to its long history and future promise as a center of aerospace innovation.

The Secretary of the Air Force has formerly requested the transfer of a shuttle orbiter in recognition of the important relationship developed between NASA and the Air Force.

Ohio's proud flight heritage, our proximity to a majority of the U.S. population, and the aviation tradition of the National Museum of the United States Air Force provide all the essential elements for a dignified display to educate the nation and the world on the tremendous accomplishments of the United States space program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Strickland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ted" and last name "Strickland" clearly legible.

Ted Strickland
Governor, State of Ohio